



Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting
October 28, 2015

Attending:

Commission Members: Jim Grode, Chair; Bruce Emory, Vice-Chair; Philip Lenowitz, Till Dohse, Julie Mayfield, Terri March and Mary Weber

Commission Members Absent: Don Kostelec, John Ridout, Josh O'Conner and Kristy Carter.

Council Liaison: Absent

Staff Members: Ken Putnam, Martha McGlohon, Yuri Koslen, Jeff Moore, Sean Spiller, Jackie Behoriam, Polly McDaniel, Joey Robison and Janet GeorgeMurr

Community Members: Lyuba Zuyeva, Virginia Daffron and Tom Durham

Called Meeting To Order: Jim Grode opened the meeting and welcomed members, staff and public.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

October 28, 2015 – Agenda: Board Member Bruce Emory motioned to approve; Board Member Till Dohse second and carried unanimously.

September 23, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes: To add Board Member Till Dohse as MMTC attendee. Board Member Till Dohse motioned to approve, Board Member Mary Weber second and carried unanimously.

Public Comment I: Jim Grode, Chair, invited the public to comment; No public comments were made

Presentations:

1. Yuri Koslen, Transit Project Coordinator, presented on the proposed ART (Asheville Defines Transit) fare changes for FY17. MMTC recommended these changes based on:

- Transit Master Plan
- Typical fares,
- Inflation,
- Rider surveys,
- Impacts of changes on low income riders,
- Increasing ART operating cost, and
- Industry best practices

Yuri further discussed the methodology for the proposed fare structure change, which included the idea of incremental annual changes and incentivizing pre-paid media.

Staff recommended the following changes to the proposed fare restructure:

1. Proposed annual changes, in which prices will be set in order to maintain multiple discounts, such that the FY17 monthly bus passes price to be \$24 and cash fare at \$1.25, FY19 raise monthly bus passes price to \$28; with cash fare going to \$1.50 in FY2020

After a discussion among Commissioners and staff, the following motion was made:

- Board Member Julie Mayfield made a motion to adopt the following:
 - FY17 the price of the monthly bus passes will be \$25 instead of \$24, and the year bus passes will be \$250 instead of \$240).
- FY18 There will be no changes.
- FY19 changes are up to staff
- FY 2021 cash fares change to \$1.50 and monthly to \$30 and annual to \$300.
- The Commission felt that the monthly pass shouldn't be any less than 20 times the cash fare and the annual pass shouldn't be any less than 10 times the

Bruce Emory seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Pedestrian Signal Timing– Jeff stated that NCDOT recently did a timing plan update and by the end of next week will be adjusted accordingly. He informed the Commission that the pedestrian signals run on a formula (2½ feet per second) based timer, and that City of Asheville Transportation would like to extend the “walk time” as much as possible. NCDOT and City of Asheville jointly maintain the pedestrian signal timing on Hendersonville Rd, Patton Avenue and College Street. Any more changes, Jeff will suggest to NCDOT, i.e. a 3 second lead pedestrian interval.

2. Neighborhood and Sidewalk Program and Policy- Jim stated that City Council approved it on 10/13/15; Ken stated that the City's website has a link to the policy and maps by street and by ranking.
3. NCDOT Pedestrian Safety Study Update- Ken addressed that all information pertaining to the study is available on the website. It will involve several departments to plan, and the Transportation Department will come up with a list. Analyzing 10 years of data and will narrow it down to 3, and pick 2 more in the spring. The three corridors are:
 - Broadway (around Mellow Mushroom and up to Trader Joe's)
 - Tunnel North (from the tunnel to the mall)
 - Patton West (Leicester Hwy. towards I-240)
4. AIM Updates- Yuri announced that Kimley-Horn consultants and staff members and Project Oversight Committee met on 11/13 and a public meeting is scheduled for 12/7/15.
5. I-26 EIS Discussion: Ken stated that the I-26 EIS is on the NCDOT website, or public library; or NCDOT office. Public hearing on 11/16 and the review will last for 60 days and will end on 12/16. Ken will submit staff comments to include any MMTC members' comments especially from multimodal transportation perspective that DOT said what they would include. On November 6 Ken scheduled a 2 hour a work session for anyone to view the maps and the study. Ken will have a draft of the comments for MMTC review on 12/2 prior to the presenting to Council on 12/8.

New Business:

1. Two Proposed Alley Closures: Sandhill Road and Jarrett Street: Chad Bandy presented two proposed closures: After a discussion: Board Member Julie Mayfield motioned to close; Board member Till Dohse seconded the motion; carried unanimously for Sandhill Road; and Board member Julie Mayfield motioned to close; Till Dohse seconded the motion; carried unanimously for Jarrett Street.
2. RFP for a comprehensive parking study: Ken Putnam stated that there will be a comprehensive parking study that will serve as guide to help staff and city council formulate policy direction to address parking issues through the City of Asheville during the next 10 to 15 years. Julie suggested considering the surface parking lots for public/private partnerships that could open up to the public in the evenings. Jim would like to see the reducing the need for parking. Ken suggested that MMTC send suggestions to him for the parking study.
3. Capital Projects: Ken gave an update that the capital projects for 5 years were submitted to Finance earlier this year. The Transportation Department has 25 projects and will send MMTC the list.
4. 2016 MMTC Officers- Jim Grode will be cycling off as chair; to elect officers in January, 2016. Martha McGlohon will be retiring in January as legal liaison.
5. MMTC Policy Recommendations: Jim stated that MMTC will be discussing policy recommendations at the 12/2 meeting consistent with the City Strategic Plan. Greenway Committee has submitted policy recommendations. Transit Committee will discuss policy recommendations at the next meeting on 12/1/15.

Announcement: Jim announced that the Tourism Development Association grant was awarded to the City which was approximately 80% of the grant to include greenways on Beaucatcher and west side of the French Broad River, soccer fields on Azalea Rd. and the Nature Center.

General Committee Updates:

1. Greenway Committee – policy recommendations presented to MMTC;
 - Field trip on 11/5 to French Broad West and Craven St. Greenway at 3:30pm – MMTC is invited;
 - Friends of Connect Buncombe – branding and marketing unveiling on 11/5;
2. Bike/Ped Task Force: Till will be designated person that policy recommendations will be mailed to.
 - Recommending moving meeting to the Thursday before the MMTC;
3. Neighborhood Advisory Committee: Philip stated that a workshop on 11/7 for local neighborhoods to learn about the planning process.
4. Transit Committee – no reports

Staff Updates:

Yuri updated MMTC on projects.

Review of MMTC Goals: Jim updated MMTC on goals.

Public Comment II: None

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: I-26; Policy Recommendations; officers

Meeting Adjourned: 5:03pm